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[The Revolution of America, it was very early predicted, would have a great influence upon the publick affairs of the European World—but the moſt ſanguine advocate for the Liberties of Mankind, could not have anticipated thoſe ſurpriſing Events, which have already tranſpired to diſtinguiſh the annals of the preſent age.—Our generous, and magnanimous Allies, the French nation, in their publications upon laws, government, and Freedom, diſcover a noble ardour in the beſt of cauſes—and the following communication will ſhew, that under the Auſpices of the beſt of Kings, they are on the eve of eſtabliſhing a new, and a free Conſtitution.]

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

LONDON, DEC. 20.

POLITICAL STATE OF FRANCE.

[TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.]

THE warmth and zeal with which ſome provinces have of late reclaimed their ancient privileges, though hoſtile to the general welfare of the kingdom, has reached the municipalities, and even a great number of individuals, who have been conſiderably alarmed; but all at once, and at a moſt unexpected period, the eyes of all the good citizens have been turned with affection and complacency towards the Dauphinians, who by means of a noble and ſteady conduct have obtained from the government whatever they have ſolicited; their neighbours, the States of Bearn, filled with admiration, and willing to follow their ſteps, tho't proper to conſult them on this momentous ſubject; but the new States of Dauphine, not having as yet met, and their Syndics not being elected, a Committee appointed for that purpoſe was ordered to ſend them the following truly patriotick anſwer, which has been much applauded throughout the kingdom, and has been read by all ranks of people.

"ANSWER *from the* STATES *of* DAUPHINE *to the* SYNDICS *of the* STATES *of* BEARN.

"GRENOBLE, 26th Sept. 1788.

"GENTLEMEN,

"We take on ourſelves to anſwer your letter, though addreſſed to our Syndics who have not as yet been choſen, as our new States are not entirely organized. The three orders of this province preſented ſome time ago to his Majeſty, a new provincial Conſtitution, free from the many errors of the obſolete one, which has ſince received his moſt gracious approbation and ſanction.

"You aſk us, gentlemen, what were the motives which formerly determined the inhabitants of this province to ſend deputies to the States General; as you ſeem to fear leſt the right of granting ſubſidies in our provincial aſſemblies, which you hold in common with us, ſhould be infringed.

"The people of Dauphine repreſented in their provincial ſtates, it is true, have the right of withholding or granting ſubſidies to the monarch; it is equally true that we might find in our ancient charters ſome plauſible pretence for not ſending deputies to the States General, and perhaps for exempting ourſelves from paying our ſhare of ſuch general taxes as are impoſed by the majority of national deputies; but fortunately the inhabitants of this province have never thought it would be advantageous not to aſſiſt the nation with their councils, whenever ſhe is deliberating on her moſt important concerns. Whether the antient States of Dauphine have ever recorded their reaſons for ſo doing, is more than we can ſay, the States having never been called ſince the year 1628, and though this period is not very diſtant, yet we have obſerved nothing in their proceedings relating to thoſe deputies; but we find in thoſe of the States General, held in 1484, 1588 and 1614 manifeſt proofs that we were then repreſented. Thoſe who think they held a ſeperate meeing as deputies from an independent State, entertain a moſt palpable error; they voted with thoſe of the other provinces in 1384, as well as in the three laſt ones.

"Dauphine is not the only province, which tho' it enjoyed the rights of granting or withholding ſubſidies in its particular States, yet ſubmitted to the national deliberations; Provence, Languedoc, Bretagne, Normandy, &c. have formerly given the ſame example.

What advantage could this province reap from not ſending deputies to the States General? Could its inhabitants flatter themſelves with the idea of poſſeſſing more wiſdom and purſuing the ſteps of a ſounder policy, than the whole nation aſſembled? Are we not obliged to contribute our ſhare of the expenſes neceſſary to the preſervation of order and publick tranquility, as well as to the ſafety of the kingdom? Become independent, could we find among ourſelves a greater degree of ſtrength, with which to oppoſe the ſnares of intrigues, and repel the encroachment of authority?

"Whilſt an individual may hold up his charters, and ſometimes oppoſe them ſucceſsfully to the rapacity of power, can he at the ſame time diſpenſe with attending national aſſemblies, met to deliberate on the remedies required by the calamities and general diſtreſſes of the nation?

"Until now, gentlemen, France has not had a poſitive, nor a fixed Conſtitution, ſufficiently defined to guarantee the reſpective rights of the ſovereign and of the ſubjects; hitherto the provinces, the different orders, nay the very individuals have been too widely ſeparated; no bond of real union has ever exiſted between the parts of this vaſt whole. Each, circumſcribed within the narrow circle of their own private concerns, have not reflected how much their diviſion led them to inability and weakneſs, and how much their excluſive attention to their particular privileges, made them neglect national and individual liberty, as well as the rights of private property; hence the ſtrong tide of power has progreſſively ſwallowed up every thing.

"Provinces ought never to have ſeparate intereſts but when they form federal republicks, each poſſeſſing a ſovereign power: In a monarchy, we never can be free, unleſs impelled by the ſame views and cloſely united, in order to maintain in its full vigour, the general Conſtitution.

"Let us forget what we have been, in order to think more attentively on what we wiſh to be; Frenchmen enjoying under a King a proper ſhare of freedom; when the Repreſentatives of this great nation are met to deliberate on the beſt means of healing her wounds, on thoſe of preſerving to the throne, that neceſſary ſhare of ſplendour and dignity; on thoſe of paying the debts of the ſtate; on thoſe in ſhort of leading France towards that ſummit of power and glory to which nature has called her; we are well aſſured, gentlemen, that then both the Bearnois and Dauphinians, will not be the laſt to appear and offer their honeſt tribute of counſels and perſonal ſervices.

"We are of opinion, gentlemen, that you ought not to conſider as an indefeaſible privilege that of granting in your particular States the neceſſary ſubſidies. There is no province in the kingdom, nay no town or borough, but what at ſome time or other has enjoyed the ſame rights, the welfare of the great community to which we belong, and the neceſſity of rendering the holding the States General frequent and indiſpenſible, muſt henceforth become our great and leading principle. The only privilege which provincial States ought to enjoy, is the laying and collecting ſuch taxes as may be granted by the great national aſſembly, inſpecting their own publick works. How could thoſe inferiour provincial aſſemblies know the real wants of the ſtate? How could they obtain ſufficient knowledge of the national finances? How could they oppoſe ſufficient barriers to unjuſt pretenſions? If the Bearnois and the Dauphinians, really and ſincerely mean to become free, let all France become free alſo, then the freedom of each province will be under the ſafeguard and guarantee of the whole. We muſt deſpair of ever obtaining a complete ſyſtem of national rights and privileges, if we mean to retain any of our old ones, but thoſe which may not be incompatible with the general welfare, and not detrimental to the reſt of our fellow citizens; henceforth this extenſive kingdom muſt be our country; the more wiſely governed we ſhall be, the dearer it will become to us. Let us therefore lay aſide thoſe obſolete ideas; let us give up what was merely partial and local, and form but one wide extended family.—Bearnois, Dauphinians, Bretons, Normands, Picards, Lorrains, let us all glory in becoming truly Frenchmen, let us feel and fulfill the duties which that name impoſes on us, and fly without delay to the aſſiſtance and relief of our dear country.

Directed by the three orders of Dauphine, to be written.

To the Syndics of the States of Bearn.

SPEECHES *of the* KING, *and the* KEEPER *of the* SEALS, *at the opening of the Aſſembly of Notables, held at Verſailles, the 6th of Nov.* 1788.

HIS MAJESTY's SPEECH.

"GENTLEMEN,

"THE manifold proofs I have lately had of your knowledge and abilities, as well as of your zeal and publick ſpirit have determined me to meet you again.

"I have appointed the beginning of the following year for holding the States General of my kingdom, and you may reſt aſſured that my heart impatiently waits for the moment, when ſurrounded by the repreſentatives of my faithful ſubjects, I ſhall have it in my power to deviſe and conſult with them on the beſt means of healing the wounds of the State, and without weakening the authority which I have received from my people's future happineſs; as long as I live, ſuch will be the principal aim of all my actions, and of my beſt wiſhes.

"But before the Convocation of thoſe States is to take place, I wiſh to conſult you, gentlemen, on the moſt eligible mode of rendering that important meeting as uſeful to my kingdom as poſſible. For that purpoſe, I have ordered, that every information, and papers which may tend to elucidate the principle object of your meeting, ſhould be laid before you. I am confident that your zeal, the celerity of your debates and deliberations, will haſten the completion of this important taſk, for which I have called you together, and that your labours will deſerve all my confidence, and anſwer the expectations of the publick."

SPEECH *of the* KEEPER *of the* SEALS.

"GENTLEMEN,

"THE Notables of the kingdom have never been called but on the moſt urgent occurrences, and in conſequence of the moſt important circumſtances, it is in thoſe momentous ones, that a monarch, whoſe firſt wiſh is the publick good, loves to meet the wiſe councils of his people, and to ſurround himſelf with the light of their knowledge.

"Such has been the conduct of thoſe of our ſovereigns whoſe names have been handed down, and are exhibited to their ſucceſſors, as patterns of good kings; ſuch was the conduct of that magnanimous one, whoſe memory becomes dearer every day, as we trace his virtues in the heir of his throne.

"The convocation of the States General will become one of the moſt memorable events of his reign; what greater boon could the nation expect from his goodneſs and juſtice? But the tender ſolicitude of his Majeſty is not limited to the meer calling of this great aſſembly; he wiſhes alſo to remove every obſtacle, to ſmooth every difficulty which can poſſibly be foreſeen. He wants to know which is the moſt perfect mode of calling them, and that which may become the moſt uſeful to the people. Inſtead of truſting to his own wiſdom, or applying to the advice of his council for the inveſtigation of this queſtion, rendered ſtill more momentous by the great number of years elapſed ſince the meeting of the laſt aſſembly, as well as by the increaſe which the kingdom has received ſince, his Majeſty requires that you ſhould let him know which are the ſureſt means of accompliſhing the moſt arduous meaſure of his adminiſtration, and at the ſame time the one moſt intereſting, as having for its object the publick felicity.

"The King comes in the midſt of you gentlemen to hear the voice of the nation, henceforth to be the baſis of publick opinion, to derive from your collective wiſdom, information and ſentiments, ſome part of his power and peculiar happineſs; the ſucceſsful trial he has already made of it, encourages and juſtifies his confidence.

"That you may be enabled at one glance, to pervade the whole extent of the buſineſs which you have to run over, and adopt ſome preciſe ideas concerning the various points of diſquiſition which will be propoſed, his Majeſty has ordered his Miniſter of the Finances to lay before you a ſeries of queſtions to which he expects the moſt explicit anſwers. This meaſure, as plain as it is natural, will greatly facilitate your labours and by circumſcribing them within proper bounds, will enable you without delay to meet the juſt impatience of the monarch to know your opinions.

"It will be a glorious taſk, gentlemen, thus to have prepared the way for the convening this great and ſolemn aſſembly, which will be truly conſtitutional—an aſſembly from whoſe wiſdom, and ſalutary determinations, the people of this kingdom expect to derive a degree of energy, ſtrength and luſtre hitherto unknown.

Haſten therefore to undertake and fulfil thoſe honourable functions:—The eyes of the whole nation are already turned towards you, while ſhe recollects with gratitude the proofs you gave in the year 1787, of your zeal and of your ſincere affection to the true intereſts of the ſtate.

"Ye miniſters of the altar, whoſe virtue and learning France has long ſince reſpected and admired, you will diſtinguiſh yourſelves no doubt, by that aptitude to buſineſs which is due to your ſtudious habits, by that ſpirit of love and conciliation which ſprings from the holy religion you teach.

"And you, generous nobility, whoſe hereditary honours and military ſervices have been ſo uſeful to the monarch, as well as to the monarchy, ſhew by the wiſdom of your councils, that you are as fit to watch over the internal regulations of the publick weal, as to defend it by your valour and your courage.

"Firſt magiſtrates of the kingdom, you who preſide over thoſe venerable and ancient corps, learned expoſitors and reſpectable depoſitories of our laws, what may not the nation expect from your conſummate experience, your well known zeal, and your attachment to thoſe maxims on

which are founded the reciprocal happineſs of the Prince and of his people.

" You, heads of thoſe numerous claſſes, which by their labours, induſtry and activity, are the main props of empires ; His Majeſty expects that your meditations and reflections on this important ſubject will be conſtantly directed towards the publick good.

" Yes, gentlemen, in whatever rank of ſociety you may be placed, the moſt intimate connections bind you to every conſtituent part of the State.—Publick felicity calls you here, and here cloſely unites you ; this noble, this great and pervading ſentiment, which is that of the nation, will preſide over all your diſquiſitions and debates.

" You will follow this ſalutary object throughout all its meanders, with the utmoſt preciſeneſs and accuracy ; you will ſpare no pains to remove thoſe obſtacles from the mode in which the States General are to be convened, and to prevent thoſe frivolous debates which formerly, and particularly in 1614, took up and waſted ſo many moments which might have been more uſefully employed.

" Gentlemen, you never will looſe ſight of the ſimple and affecting idea, that the inhabitants of this kingdom conſtitute but one great family, that therefore we can have but one and the ſame intereſt to meliorate and purſue, but one and the ſame honour to preſerve and to keep ; that if the auguſt chief who now preſides here, owes himſelf eſſentially and entirely to the happineſs of all, *if he is the natural conciliator of all parties*, and protector of thoſe privileges and immunities which have been placed under his care, he has therefore the moſt undoubted right to your love and reſpect.

" Thus called together, thus admitted into his moſt intimate councils, by the confidence he reposes in yon, he has every reaſon to expect that your enlightened zeal, your beſt information, like the juſt tribute of filial piety, will be offered up as a generous and grateful return for the tenderneſs and affection of a father."

NEW YORK.

PROCEEDINGS of CONGRESS.

In the HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES *of the* UNITED STATES.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1789.

MR. TUCKER preſented a petition from Doctor RAMSAY, of Charleſton, S. C. requeſting Congreſs to ſecure to him his property in the *Hiſtory of the Revolution of South-Carolina*. A committee was appointed to take up the ſubject at large, and report a bill upon general principles.

A memorial of JOHN CHURCHMAN was introduced by Mr. SHERMAN—it reſpected Mr. Churchman's new diſcoverics in the magnetick variation which have been announced to the publick —this was referred to the Committee, appointed on Dr. Ramſay's petition.

Mr. TUCKER preſented a memorial alſo from Doctor RAMSAY——Subject, the ineligibility of the Hon. WILLIAM SMITH to a ſeat in that Houſe, as he was not qualified in point of reſidence, not having been ſeven years a citizen of the United States previous to his election—a requiſite of the Conſtitution.

Mr. TUCKER introduced the memorial with a great degree of delicacy. He obſerved, that he wiſhed to be conſidered as acting entirely *officially* in the buſineſs, and that it might be treated with the utmoſt attention, as the gentlemen were both highly reſpectable in their characters—Dr. Ramſay was a gentleman of extenſive reputation, and ranked high in the State to which he belonged.—Mr. SMITH alſo was a gentleman who ſuſtained the faireſt character, and had often received reſpectable marks of diſtinction from his fellow citizens. His election was conteſted merely upon conſtitutional principles.—His appearance in that houſe ſufficiently indicated that he had never forfeited the eſteem of his fellow citizens.

This memorial was referred to the COMMITTEE OF ELECTIONS.

Mr. BOUDINOT, of the committee to prepare rules for conducting Conferences, reported—the conſideration of which was poſtponed.

Mr. BENSON of the committe appointed to confer with a committee of the Senate, upon the ſubject of arrangements for the reception of the PRESIDENT, and VICE-PRESIDENT, made the following report, to wit.

That Mr. OSGOOD, the proprietor of the houſe lately occupied by the Preſident of Congreſs, be requeſted to put the ſame, and the furniture therein, in proper condition for the reſidence and uſe of the Preſident of the United States, and otherwiſe, at the expence of the United States, to provide for his temporary accommodation.

That it will be moſt eligible in the firſt inſtance, that a committee of three Members from the Senate, and five from the Houſe of Repreſentatives, to be appointed by the Houſes reſpectively, attend to receive the Preſident, at ſuch place as he ſhall embark at from New-Jerſey for this city, and conduct him without form, to the houſe lately occupied by the Preſident of Congreſs, and that at ſuch time thereafter, as the Preſident ſhall ſignify, it ſhall be moſt convenient for him, he be formerly received by both houſes.

That a Committee of two members from the Senate, and three members from the Houſe of Repreſentatives, to be appointed by the Houſes reſpectively, wait on the Vice-Preſident of the United States, as ſoon as he ſhall come to this city, and in the name of the Congreſs of the United States, congratulate him on his arrival.

The ſaid report being conſidered, was accepted.

A letter from the Chief Juſtice of the ſtate of New-york, addreſſed to the Speaker, was read, informing that JOHN BECKLEY, Eſq. Clerk of the Houſe of Repreſentatives, had appeared before him, and taken the oath required by the Conſtitution.

In committee of the whole houſe, the *Order of the day* was reſumed, by proceeding to fill the blanks in the Reſolve, as follow,

On Cocoa, 1 cent pr. lb.
On Beer, Ale and Porter,
imported in caſks, 8 cents pr. gal.
On do. in bottles, 24 cents pr. doz.
On Tallow Candles, 2 cents pr. lb.
On Wax do. 6 do. do.
On Cheeſe, 4 do. do.
On Soap, 2 do. do.
On Boots, 50 cents pr. pair.
On Shoes, Slippers, and Galloſhoes, 10 do. do.
On unwrought Steel, 56 cents pr. 112lb.

On the ſubject of Steel, a debate enſued. Mr. LEE moved, that the article be ſtruck out of the enumeration.

Mr. TUCKER was in opinion with Mr. LEE.

Mr. CLYMER, and Mr. FITZSIMONS, were for the duty.

On the one hand it was contended, that this duty would create a monoply in favour of a few manufacturers, no ways conducive to the general advantage—that it would bear hard upon the agricultural intereſt, as it was an indiſpenſible article in the fabrication of implements of huſbandry, &c.

On the other it was alledged, that three hundred tons had been manufactured the year paſt in Pennſylvania alone—That further encouragement would produce ſufficient quantities for the conſumption of the Union—and although it might operate a little unequally at firſt, the ſame objection lay againſt encreaſing every branch—but that this was an evil that carried its own remedy with it—for every productive buſineſs was ſoon overdone, and the article then diminiſhed in value—That it was the duty of the Houſe to go upon general principles, and not to be biaſſed by partial intereſts, when a meaſure appeared to be evidently calculated to promote national objects—that when the whole ſyſtem ſhould be brought into operation, there would probably be a balance of mutual advantages derived to individual States.

The queſtion being taken on Mr. LEE's motion, it was loſt.

On Cables and tarred Cordage, a duty of 50 cents pr. hund. wt. was voted.

On untarred do. 60 cents pr. hund. wt.

On Twine and pack Thread, one dollar pr. hund. wt.

An Impoſt on Hemp was mentioned, and urged by ſome obſervations from Mr. Scot—but gentlemen were not ſufficiently prepared to aſcertain the amount that might be expedient—it was accordingly deferred.

Adjourned.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16.

Houſe met agreeably to adjournment.

The Bill, providing the mode of taking the oath, or affirmation, required by the Conſtitution, was read the ſecond time, and on motion of Mr. WHITE, was referred to the committee of the whole houſe, and made the order of the day for Monday next.

A committee of five was then balloted for, who are to join a committee of the Senate, to receive the Preſident on the Jerſey ſhore, and attend him to this city, Mr. BOUDINOT, Mr. BLAND, Mr. BENSON, Mr. LAWRENCE, and Mr. TUCKER, were elected. Mr. GILMAN, Mr. AMES, and Mr. GERRY, were appointed a committee to wait on the Vice Preſident, on his arrival, and congratulate him in the name of the two Houſes.

In committee of the whole, on the ſtate of the union, the committee proceeded to fill up the blanks in the reſolve.

HEMP—Mr. GILMAN propoſed, that this article be ſtruck out of the enumeration.

Mr. HARTLEY—I am oppoſed Sir, to an exceſſive duty upon this article: Hemp is a raw material, which we ſhould find ourſelves very much diſtreſſed for, ſhould we lay a heavy, or prohibitory tax upon it ; the production of this article in the country, bears no proportion to its conſumption ; nor can gentlemen determine with any degree of preciſion, when that will be the caſe. We have, Sir, already laid a duty upon Cordage, which will operate as a protection to our manufacture of that article, and if we now tax Hemp exorbitantly, we ſhall in a meaſure defeat our own purpoſes. Beſides Sir, this will be a moſt improvident meaſure, as it reſpects ſhip building—and ſurely we do not mean to leſſon the navigation of our country. Upon the general principle, Mr. Hartley concluded in favour of a ſmall duty, not more than 5 pr. cent. as on the general maſs of articles.

Mr. MOORE was in favour of a high duty—his obſervations were conſiderably lengthy, but were not diſtinctly heard by the editor.

Mr. HEISTER obſerved, that from the Weſtern country, large quantities of this article were to be expected: He propoſed therefore a ſmall duty ſhould be laid for the interim between the preſent time, and the next harveſt, after which the Impoſt ſhould be enhanced, ſo as to afford encouragement to the raiſing this important article.

Mr. WHITE oppoſed ſtriking out the article—Hemp, he obſerved, was a plant that might be raiſed in any quantities, eſpecially in the Weſtern country, the ſoil of which was peculiarly adapted to its growth. Agriculture was an object of immenſe importance ; Government would undoubtedly patronize it—He therefore propoſed 75 cents pr. hund. as a moderate duty on this article.

Mr. PARTRIDGE ſpake in favour of a moderate duty, for conſidering the article as a material, neceſſary to the exiſtence of an important manufacture —the high price it bore in foreign markets, ſhould induce a reaſon for a very low Impoſt—he therefore propoſed 40 cents pr. hund.

Mr. LAWRENCE—I am, Sir, oppoſed to a great Impoſt upon Hemp : It is certain that the production of that article in the States, bears no proportion to the demand. This State, Sir, manufactured *three hundred tons* the year paſt—and not more than *forty tons* were raiſed among ourſelves. We cannot be ſupplied from our own produce with ſufficient quantities at preſent. The duty on Cordage is ſufficient, and will operate to the encouragement wiſhed for in the raiſing of Hemp. If his information was juſt, the gentleman obſerved, that Cordage could be imported as cheap as Hemp, or nearly ſo ; a duty therefore on the latter, would induce the importation of the former, to the total diſcouragement of the manufacture. He concluded therefore by moving, that the duty ſhould be 40 cents pr. hund.

Mr. GOODHUE was in favour of 40 cents ; there was a material difference between Hemp and Cordage, as gentlemen had obſerved, and the difference between the duties ought to bear ſome proportion.

Mr. BOUDINOT ſaid, that as every article of importation would doubtleſs bear an Impoſt of at leaſt 5 pr. cent. and the propoſed duty amounted, according to the preſent price of Hemp, exactly to that ſum, he ſhould be in favour of 40 cents, for that reaſon ; but as it was already a ſpecified article, to give it diſtinction as ſuch, without materially enhancing the duty from 5 pr. cent. and that Commerce and Manufacture might mutually aſſiſt each other, he would propoſe 50 cents.

Mr. HARTLEY ſuggeſted, that in lieu of a duty on foreign Hemp, to encourage the growth of it at home, it might be eligible to offer a bounty on the latter : He was decidedly of opinion, that the laſt expedient would be preferable to the impoſing a tax on Hemp imported.

Mr. MOORE again advocated an enhanced duty.

Mr. WHITE alſo, to the ſame point, adverted to the Weſtern territory—ſuggeſted the policy of conciliating the affection of our brethren in that country, and of making favourable impreſſions reſpecting the adminiſtration of the New Conſtitution.

Mr. SCOT—Sir, Commerce and Agriculture are ſo cloſely allied, that whatever is injurious to one, equally affects the other ; they muſt be united.—In vain does the Farmer till the ſoil, and bring his produce to market, unleſs the Merchant is ready to take his articles, at a reaſonable rate.—In vain does the Merchant plan his voyages to diſtant climes, unleſs the labour of the Huſbandman furniſhes him with the neceſſary remittances.

Agriculture is the natural reſort of the great body of our countrymen. The eſtabliſhment of Manufactures may be neceſſary to America, in a time of war, but their proſecution, upon a generally extenſive ſcale, is not to be expected, while the boundleſs tracts of uncultivated lands that extend thouſands of miles weſtward, offer on eaſy ſupport to the poorer claſſes of people—and for a long time to come, we cannot expect to vie with the European manufacturers—Agriculture, therefore, is the great object that ſhould arreſt our attention. Hemp is an article, the growth of which, if encouraged by the general government of the United States, quantities may be raiſed in the Weſtern country to an unlimited amount—Its tranſportation is eaſy, and the price it bears, will warrant its being brought from a great diſtance. Should but a *hope* be held out, that the inhabitants of thoſe regions may hope, that Congreſs will take this article under their patronage, it will not be long, before the mouth of the Miſſiſippi will be delivering immenſe quantities, which from the interior country, ſhall come floating upon its waters—Mr. Scot was therefore in favour of 75 cents pr. hund.

Mr. MADDISON here made ſome obſervations, which we could not diſtinctly hear : He was oppoſed, however, to a high duty, and propoſed 45 cents.

Mr. SMITH, Maryland, was in favour of 40 cents, as a temporary duty, and propoſed, that after two years, the Impoſt ſhould be one dollar, or 100 cents pr. hund. wt.

Upon taking the vote it paſſed in favour of 50 cents pr. hund.

The article Malt was dutied at 10 cents pr. buſhel.

Mr. AMES propoſed the articles of Barley and Lime ſhould be added to the general enumeration —which being voted in the affirmative, Barley pr.

bushel was dutied 6 cents—Lime pr. hd. 100 cents. Nails, Spikes, Tack and Brads, were the next articles. These Mr. LEE proposed, should be struck out—and was seconded by Mr. Maddison, and Mr. Bland: The latter gentleman observed, that it would operate as an intolerable burthen upon the Southern States, especially as the quantities which are manufactured in some of the States, are not adequate to the demand of those States.

Mr. GOODHUE supposed, that the quantity which now was, or easily might be made in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was equal to the demands of the Union.

Mr. AMES—Sir, I am in favour of the articles being retained in the Resolve; to strike them out would be to strike at one of the best and most accommodating manufactures that could possibly be established. It is now usual in Massachusetts, for house keepers in the country towns, to erect a small forge in their chimney corners, and in winter, and on evenings, when no other work could be done, it is almost incredible, what quantities of Nails are made, even by children. These Nails are produced in such quantities that the exportation of them is become a very considerable branch of Commerce. And shall we discourage so useful, so extensive a manufacture? Every principle of policy forbids it. Manufactures in Europe and America are upon quite different foundations: In Europe, *necessity* is a competent stimulous; but with us, every encouragement is necessary, to prop and cherish our infant attempts—he was therefore against the motion.

Mr. SHERMAN observed, that as our country abounded in iron, the manufacture under debate, was prosecuted with perhaps greater advantage, than almost any other—that it promoted an intercourse with the neighbouring States—Connecticut for instance, which manufactured this article to a large amount, bartered the nails for nail-rods, with their neighbours in the State of New-York, he was therefore opposed to the motion. Mr. Tucker, Mr. Partridge Mr. Fitzsimons, and Mr. Carrol, severally spoke upon the motion—which was finally withdrawn.—Tacks and brads were then struck out, and one cent per pound duty, was imposed upon nails and spikes.

Salt was the next article read, to which Mr. BURKE and Mr. HUGER were severally opposed to assessing any duty, as it would operate very unequally upon the southern Governments, where the price was greatly enhanced by very extensive land carriage.

Mr. LAWRANCE observed that a tax upon salt, would be equal through the States, and as it was an article on which a certain revenue could be realized—he was of opinion that a duty of six cents per bushel would not be burthensome, he therefore proposed that sum.

Mr. TUCKER expatiated upon the unequal operation of this duty—and the extreme injury it would produce to the poorer part of the people in the southern states, whose fate would be extremely severe, deprived of this necessary article—already so high with them that it was scarcely attainable. —He was decidedly opposed to any duty whatever.

Mr. SCOT,—the article of salt, Sir, is transported to a distance of 500 miles from the atlantic Ocean, and cannot be procured nearer—chief of the way on horseback, two baskets to a load. Four dollars a bushel is the price of this article where I live.—Sir, to add to this exorbitant price by a tax, would in my opinion be impolitick at this early period of the national Government, it may be our wisdom to make the the most favorable impressions upon the minds of the back country people——I do not pretend to the gift of prophecy, but the effects of a measure of this kind would certainly be unfavorable upon the minds of those people—nature it should seem had sufficiently taxed this article by the difficulties she threw in the way of obtaining it by a great proportion of mankind.—Mr Moore said some thing upon the subject, but we could not distinctly hear him.

Mr. SMITH of (South Carolina) was opposed to the duty—and combated it by a variety of observations which had referrence principally to the local circumstances of South Carolina—its attachment to the Constitution—the expensive land carriage, &c. &c. but as the time had elapsed and no prospect appearing of bringing the subject to an immediate decision, Mr. Lawrence moved that the committe should rise.——

The further consideration was therefore postponed.——

The committe arose and the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17.

Met agreeable to adjournment.

Mr. SHERMAN moved for the order of the day.

In committee of the whole—resumed the consideration of the impost proper to be laid on Salt!

Mr. BURKE moved that the article be struck out of the enumeration.

Mr. LAWRANCE—I am not convinced, Sir, by all that has been urged upon the subject, of the inexpediency of a duty upon this article—Upon the general principle, this article, it is true, will come in, but when it is considered that it is our duty to avail ourselves of the most productive sources of revenue. When it is considered that this duty will operate more equally than some others, by reason of the greater consumption for the purposes of luxury than will be consumed by the poor—considering also, the low price at which salt is imported, it must be confessed a very eligible source of revenue. It has been said that it was oppressive, and would be as odious as a poll tax. As to its being oppressive, he could not conceive of it, as the quantity consumed by families upon an average, did not exceed, perhaps, three bushels per annum; which, at six cents was little more than one-sixth of a dollar a year; and it was very well known, that a poll-tax was common in some of the States, and had been so, time immemorial, and no greater complaint existed as to that denomination of taxes, than against others—The truth was, all taxes were odious, and were submitted to from principle and necessity. In the Southern governments, it has been said, that the heavy *land carriage* of this article, would inhance its value beyond all toleration—To this, it might be replied, that whatever the price of Salt might be, the impost would be uniform, and not in proportion to the price of the article, let Salt be cheap or dear, still six cents only was the proposed duty; and if from local circumstances, some parts of the Union paid an excessive price for a particular article, still it lay with them very much to lessen the price and diminish the amount of the duty by retrenching the consumption of such article. At any rate, it was morally certain, that a balance would be produced upon the whole, when the system should be completed; by the States upon the shores of the Atlantic consuming many articles on which heavy duties would be assessed, and which were not, and would not be made use of, in the inland parts of the country—A tax upon this article had existed for some time in this State, and was collected with the same ease with other duties: There were other objections answered by Mr. Lawrance; his replies were to the point, and he concluded by wishing that the article might not be erased.

Mr. MADDISON was in favor of the duty; he considered the subject upon the principles of justice and policy, and from both determined that the proposed duty was eligible; he was however in favor of a small one, but could by no means think of leaving the article out.

Mr. HUNTINGDON adverted to the facility and punctuality with which a great revenue was raised from this article in European countries—the duty proposed was low, and in a great majority of instances, would be borne by those who were best able to *pay*.

Mr. WHITE opposed the article's being continued in the resolve, or a duty's being imposed on it—His constituents expected relief from the operation of the New Government. this would be considered as a great burthen, and have a very inauspicious influence. Five pet cent he was in favor of; but the proposed sum amounted to almost 33-3 per cent.

Mr. SCOT was in opposition to the continuance of the article in the list, and observed, upon the assertion that had been made respecting the people in the Western country, not consuming many articles which the sea ports paid a heavy duty upon, that every article of luxury, both of Europe, the East and West Indies had found their way 500 miles inland; and that according to their property, the people in those regions, consumed their full proportion of luxuries: He was therefore for expunging the article, as he dreaded the consequences, which, in his opinion, would result from an impost that would be considered in so odious a light.

Mr. FITZSIMONS observed, that justice was the great principle that should influence the decisions of that House; that it would be a poor compliment to the judgment and patriotism of their constituents, to suppose that their attachment to good government and the Constitution, depended upon a circumstance of this nature: He did not think it was in human justice to adopt a tax less injurious to the poor; he conceived that no people upon earth had higher sentiments of justice than the people of these States; and as so great a sum as nearly 100000 dollars might, according to a calculation he had made, be raised with ease upon this article; he was opposed to expunging it, and hoped the duty of six cents would obtain.

The question being taken, it was voted not to expunge the article.

Mr. GOODHUE then moved that a *draw back* should be allowed on salt used for the Fisheries, and provisions—this passed in the affirmative.

It was then voted that the duty on *salt* should be six cents per bushel; on manufactured Tobacco, six cents per lb. on Snuff, ten cents per lb.

Mr. CARROL then proposed that window and other Glass, should be added to the general list of articles: This, after some debate, was acceded to, and ten per cent advalorem was voted upon window and all other glass. After considerable further debate, the committee voted that a duty of seven and half per cent advalorem, should be laid upon all *writing*, *printing* and *wrapping* Paper and *paste-board*, walking sticks and horse-whips, clothes ready made, and gold and silver, and plated ware, jewellery and paste work, and upon all coaches, chariots, and other four wheeled carriages, duty of fifteen per cent advalorem.

Upon motion the committee then rose, and the Speaker resumed the chair. A letter was then read from the Hon. Senate enclosing two orders.

A report from the joint committee appointed to determine upon the mode of conducting conferrences; also respecting the election of Chaplains. ——This report was accepted on the part of the House——And an order of the Senate appointing Mr. Strong, Mr. Izard and Mr. Lee, to join a committee of the House, to consider the most eligible mode of communicating papers, bills and messages. Mr. Lee, Mr. Burke and Mr. Seney were appointed.

Adjourned

(To be continued.)

O D E,

On the Establishment of the CONSTITUTION,

And the Election of *GEORGE* our President.

"GOD of our fathers! need we trace
The mis'ries of a former race,
To learn true conduct from recorded woes?
But now our errors, and our crimes,
Drew down thy judgments on the times.
Black o'er our heads a tempest rose,
Soon all the Heav'ns were in a flame,
Pointing to blast our peace and fame:
But, oh! thy mercy turn'd the storm aside,
Deign'd to becalm the raging seas,
Deign'd to diffuse the swelling breeze,
And to the port of peace our vessel guide.—
Our pilot sav'd thro' such a wat'ry war,
Sits at the helm, and points to Hope's bright star;
And, God his guide, he bids us boldly go,
Whatever socks oppoose, whatever tempests blow."

NATIONAL.

Extract of a letter from a neighbouring State.

"I AM really happy to be informed that the GENERAL GOVERNMENT is beginning its operations—Human nature is capricious; would you believe it—there was something like the appearance of an abatement of that ardour in the national cause, which has so strongly marked the conduct of the majority of the people in this quarter—"there is a tide in the AFFAIRS of men"—and so there is in their SENTIMENTS too—"taken at the flood it leads" to Empire Government, and Peace—but if neglected——I forbear the rest——May the Legislature of the United States be wise to discern, and spirited to prosecute the best interests—"*Where freedom dwells, there is my Country*," said one—and where is her residence to be found but where the security of person and property exists under a just, a righteous, and energetick Government?—such as I trust is in reserve for this rising—this independent Empire."

PRIZE OF VIRTUE.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY of PERPIGNAN.

JANUARY 2, 1788.

THE prize of Virtue proposed for the countryman, who should most deserve it, by a long irreproachable conduct, or some remarkable instance of courage and humanity, was this day awarded to the following persons.

NICHOLAS BRUSSE, of the village of Toulonge, who, throughout a life of sixty years, has been in the constant exercise of virtuous actions, notwithstanding the many misfortunes he has experienced.

EBDON CLARET of 40, and VILLENOVAL, of 20, inhabitants of St. Laurent de Cerda, whose employment was to carry ore, on mules, from the mountain of Batere to the forges at St. Laurent. These muleteers, returning from Batere, find the most dangerous torrents in the province extremely swelled. The youngest takes upon himself to sound the passage. He gets upon his mule, laden with ore, and enters the water. The mule is soon carried away by the stream, and VILLENOVAL loses his seat. His comrade, seeing him on the point of being drowned, rushes into the river, seizes VILLENOVAL; and drags him to the opposite side. Perceiving the mule of his young friend, and this mule was his all, ready to perish, he again plunges in, comes up to the mule, cuts the girths to disengage the load, but the animal in struggling strikes him on the head, and CLARET is carried away senseless by the torrent. VILLENOVAL cannot bear to see his preserver perish, rushes into the water, and after several efforts has the good fortune to bring CLARET to the shore.

The society gave 200 livres to BRUSSE, and 100 livres to each of the others.

NEWYORK, APRIL 18.

It would be a poor compliment to the good sense of the Citizens of the United States, to suppose, that after their unparelleled exertions to obtain the blessings of freedom and independence, that they should not with ardour adopt a firm and efficient Government, and enter into a SPIRITED administration of such a Government too, as the only method to realize, secure and perpetuate the great objects for which they fought and conquered.

Accordingly we find, that the more that Government is studied, understood and enjoyed, like other blessings of a propitious providence, the more it is prized; and there is no doubt but as the prejudices of mankind subside, and their understandings have fair play, they will consider the restraints of Law and good Government, as the only barriers of freedom and happiness.

OF THE FEDERAL STATE-HOUSE.

This superb edifice is upon the whole, superior to any building in America—and for its competency to the great design for which it is constructed, does honour to the architect.—The citizens of this metropolis, always distinguished for their public spirit—have by their exertions in this instance, added greatly to the lustre of their established FEDERAL CHARACTER.

ORIGINALITY.

The TABLET.——No. II.

"In our progress from infancy, habits of acting are prior to habits of thinking. Manners have a most powerful controul over principles."

I WAS the other evening in company with two foreigners; who were in the humour of political discussion. They both discovered a strong curiosity to gain information; and were not averse, in their turn, to impart what they had acquired. It gave me pleasure to find that their minds were not very deeply tinged with prejudice. Some improper biasses must be expected of men, who are remarking upon the affairs of a country, in so many respects, different from their own: They seemed willing to give applause, where it was due; and spoke with delicacy and candour, on what could not be applauded. One of them, addressing himself to me, made this expressive remark; *the affairs of this country will operate favourably, when your people leave off disputing about words and attend more to things.* The emphatick manner in which he communicated this idea, led me to suppose, he laid great stress upon it. I requested an exemplification.

"I have resided," said he, "eighteen months in America; and during this time, have frequently heard the lectures of clergymen, the debates of legislatures, and the conversation of private circles. The main scope of their observations rather aimed at teaching men, *how to think*, than, *what to practise*."

"It is to be regretted, that the abilities of publick preachers are so much employed in fixing theories and explaining words. Their discourses seem generally to agree in one point; that they have more concern with the *creeds*, than with the *morals* of their hearers. There are however some exceptions to this mode of preaching; and there is reason to imagine that the Clergy will be more and more of the opinion, that if they can persuade men to *act right*, they will have less temptation to *believe wrong*. It must occur to every reflecting mind, that a *just and useful life* is one of the best guards against an erroneous belief. Whatever is commonly considered an article or doctrine of faith, does not, I imagine, often gain advocates by investigation.—The preacher will do less hurt to himself, and more good to his audience, by acting on the presumption that none of his hearers wish to dislodge him, from the platform, on which he stands. If he can engage the affections of people towards himself, his peculiar tenets will rest on a safer foundation, than metaphysicks can afford. He will promote his own happiness, and the cause he professes to serve, more effectually, by gaining a true knowledge of the human character, than by any expertness in the refinements of logick."

"In your legislative assemblies, I find the debates wearing a similar complexion. To determine the meaning of expressions and the bounds of constitutional power takes up much of their deliberations. Many of your politicians seem not to have extended their views to the practical parts of government. They reason well upon principles, while they seem embarrassed how to adopt measures. Speculative men, either in publick or private life, seldom give energy or success to their operations."

"The private circles I have attended, likewise shew a disposition to theorize. Forms, more than substances, occupy their attention. More men are expert in discussing personal rights and legislative powers, than in marking out plans that shall render the blessings of government something more than a *name*."

"I will mention an instance, which though not an uncommon one, will tolerably well illustrate the general object of my remarks. In a journey through a part of New-England, I passed a night at a small country village, or town as the inhabitants called it. On alighting from my horse, I observed several persons in and about the house where I was to lodge. Their appearance was decent, and their deportment not uncivil. My host furnished me with an apartment, which he meant I should have to myself through the evening.—However, I had not long been seated, before a man, whose appearance I did not dislike, came into the room and accosted me in the following words: "*Friend, you are a stranger to me, I hope you will take no exceptions, if I set a while with you.*" I was in that state of mind, which preferred indifferent company to none at all, and therefore bid my companion take a seat. He immediately fell into a diversified conversation; in the course of which he informed me of all the noted law-contentions that had happened in his vicinity for several years; and also gave me a full account of some disputes that had taken place respecting the discipline of a neighbouring church; and in short did not leave me ignorant of any material transaction that had come within his knowledge for a considerable time. He had expressions at his tongue's end suitable for all these purposes; it occurred to me as probable, after he left the room, that he was some professional man, and I had no doubt that he sustained an excellent character in the neighbourhood. Indeed I should have thought favourably of him to this day, had not the landlord undeceived me as he was lighting me to bed. "I hope," said he, "you will not have a bad opinion of my house for having been so disturbed with that impertinent man, who intruded upon you this evening. There are in this neighbourhood a number of these talking, idle fellows, who put themselves in the way of all strangers that come to my house." I told my civil landlord to give himself no uneasiness, for my companion had afforded me much amusement; and I had concluded that he was a man of respectability, and asked if he was not a lawyer, or some officer of the church as he was well acquainted with legal processes and ecclesiastical discipline. The innkeeper with a look of indignant surprise assured me I was deceived, and that he was as lazy and worthless a fellow as could be "*found unhung*". He was a man of no profession and in no credit. His father left him some property, but he wasted it, in quarrels at law, and in stirring up strife among the neighbours. Is he not, replied I, a man of honour and integrity in his dealings? The landlord with a sarcastick sneer said, "Sir, if you put any property in his hands, you will have good luck ever to get any of it back again." But he certainly, continued I, must be a man of veracity. The innkeeper out of all patience with my queries, shook his head, and in a significant smile, replied, "my neighbour is rather apt to *shoot flying*." This character of my new acquaintance a little agitated me: as he had pledged himself to accompany me several miles in the morning, having assured me that business would lead him the direction I was going, and for the sake of my company, he would start earlier than he otherwise intended. In the morning, at the hour appointed, he called for me. I mention-d to him that I was exceedingly sorry to disappoint him, but that I had discovered my horse must be new shod, before he could perform his journey. We took leave of each other, and he assured me, that if ever I came that way again, he should be glad of a further acquaintance, and that if he should not happen to be at the inn when I arrived, the landlord would give him notice. The character of this man fully exhibits a specimen of one, who had been educated in habits of thinking and talking upon forms, to which no substantial meaning had been annexed, and from which no useful effects had been produced. It led me into a reflection that there must be a radical error in a system of education, which makes the actions of men so ill correspond with their conversation.

PLAN

OF THE

GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

A NATIONAL PAPER.

To be published at the SEAT *of the* FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, *and to comprise, as fully as possible, the following Objects, viz.*

I. EARLY and authentick Accounts of the PROCEEDINGS of CONGRESS—its LAWS, ACTS, and RESOLUTIONS, communicated so as to form an *HISTORY of the TRANSACTIONS of the FEDERAL LEGISLATURE, under the NEW CONSTITUTION.*

II. IMPARTIAL SKETCHES of the DEBATES of CONGRESS.

III. ESSAYS upon the great subjects of Government in general' nd the *Federal Legislature in particular*; also upon the *national* and *local* Rights of the AMERICAN CITIZENS, as found d upon the Federal or State Constitutions; also upon every other Subject, which may appear suitable for newspaper discussion.

IV. A SERIES of PARAGRAPHS, calculated to catch the "LIVING MANNERS AS THEY RISE," and to point the publick attention to Objects that have an important reference to *domestick, social*, and *publick happiness*.

V. The Interests of the United States as connected with their literary Institutions—religious and moral Objects—Improvements in Science, Arts, EDUCATION and HUMANITY—their foreign Treaties, Alliances, Connections, &c.

VI. Every *species* of INTELLIGENCE, which may affect the *commercial, agricultural, manufacturing*, or *political* INTERESTS of the AMERICAN REPUBLICK.

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IX. The STATE of the NATIONAL FUNDS; also of the INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS—Courses of Exchange—Prices Current, &c.

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ADDRESS.

THE Publick approbation alone can give stability and success to any undertaking which must ultimately depend upon public opinion: This idea has generally induced the Editors of new publications to attempt anticipating that approbation through the medium of *professions*, which, to say the least, are, too seldom realized: The Editor of the GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES would avoid, as far as possible, the imputation that has been frequently and justly incurred upon account of professions never *substantiated*.

Should the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES prove a faithful register of publick transactions, especially those of the great council of the nation, the FEDERAL LEGISLATURE; he HOPES it will be patronized by those who feel interested in the welfare of the union; the *patriots* and *independent freemen of our country*.

Should it contain a competent detail of foreign and domestic intelligence; revolutions in commerce; discoveries in various parts of the globe, opening new sources of wealth to enterprizing adventurers; rise and fall of stocks; prices current, &c. he HOPES it will receive the support of mercantile characters.

Should the great body of mechanics find that their important interests are attended to; that improvements and discoveries in their several branches claim an early and constant insertion.

Should this Gazette be the happy instrument of pointing out various plans, by which the music of the AX and HAMMER may again be heard in our cities, the Editor cannot but HOPE for their generous encouragement.

Should something worthy the notice of the great farming interest of our country (the bulwork of freedom and equal laws) be exhibited from time to time, the editor HOPES for their patronage. Improvements in agriculture are of the first consequence to our young, our rising country; and the labours that tend to affect this desirable object, are the result of the purest patriotism, and should demand the constant attention of the Editors of periodical publication.

The Editor HOPES that the wealthy part of the community will become patrons of this publication, as it is but just to say, that every project, which has been obviously calculated for publick utility, has met with prompt and generous encouragement from those whom Providence has blessed with affluence; without their assistance, the noble plans now on foot for the promotion of MANUFACTURES, ARTS and SCIENCES, must have proved abortive; their liberal efforts on many *recent occasions*, have given a spring to the publick mind. Should the Gazette of the United States suggest improvable hints, or feazible projects, which must depend upon the PURSE for their maturity, it cannot fail of being countenanced by the RICH and public spirited.

The great and momentous subject of Education is hourly appreciating in its importance: That part of the NEW CONSTITUTION, which opens the door to *every man of every rank*, possessing VIRTUE and ABILITIES, to the highest honours in the great American Republick, has expanded the views of every American.

This idea, places the business of Education in a point of light, in which it never has before been viewed; a point in which it cannot be considered in any other country upon the face of the earth. The MIDDLING and LOWER CLASS of CITIZENS will therefore find their account in becoming subscribers for this Gazette, should it pay a particular regard to this great subject. Full justice cannot perhaps be done to it; but every attempt to illustrate and enforce its importance, must insure the applause of every person who feels the dignity of a rational being, or who prizes the birthright of an American.

Ignorance is the parent of all human degradation; every attempt therefore to disseminate the rays of knowledge will receive the applause of the truly benevolent. The happiness of mankind being inseparably connected with the practice of religious, moral and social duties, it becomes obligatory upon the Editors of publick papers, to pay a distinguished regard to every idea that may be suggested upon these important points, upon *general principles*, avoiding tedious dissertations upon *abstruse* and *metaphysical* subjects,: Those essays that have a natural tendency to refine our manners, humanize the heart, and exalt our natures, should claim a distinguished attention. So far as the Gazette of the United States shall be instrumental in diffusing sentiments of justice, humanity and benevolence—those great moral virtues, it will doubtless receive the support of the Reverend Clergy.

In short, should this Gazette support the character of a NATIONAL, IMPARTIAL and INDEPENDENT CONVEYANCER to all parts of the Union, of News, Politics, and Miscellanies, the approbation and patronage of a generous publick will doubtless reward the exertions of

The EDITOR.

TWO YOUNG SPRIGHTLY LADS

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